

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

00-385

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

AUGUST 21, 2000

SUBJECT:

ACQUISITION AND
TRAINING OF
CANINES FOR
POLICE
DEPARTMENT

The Police Department is in the process of developing a three dog canine unit in the Patrol Division. This unit will assign one dog to each watch, which will provide evidence and suspect search, criminal apprehension, as well as tracking and building/area searches. A review of available schools has identified Top Dogs K-9 Academy (P.O. Box 4484, Evansville, Indiana 47720, John Haller, Owner) as the recommended institution to provide the animals and training.

FISCAL IMPACT -

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

The cost of training and acquisition of these dogs is \$25,500. The appropriation for this expenditure was approved during the Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 revised and FY 2001 projected budget process. Training and equipment for three officers will also be required, and \$28,950 has been appropriated for this purpose.

RECOMMENDATION -

SUBMITTED BY:

WILLIAM
MOULDER
CHIEF OF POLICE

Approval.

BACKGROUND -

The Police Department appointed a Canine Committee, which evaluated four Midwest canine training schools. All of these schools have good to excellent reputations for training canine teams. The Top Dogs K-9 Academy was chosen as the most beneficial to our program for the following reasons:

1. The training starts in the middle of October 2000, where the other schools start in the spring.
2. The dogs are hand picked and pre-trained prior to our officers

attending the school. The other schools start with "green dogs" which have no prior training. This can cause problems and extend training times.

3. The pre-trained dogs will save eight weeks of man-hours per officer.

4. When our officers return from training, the canines will be fully trained and ready to work the streets. The other schools require the officers to return after six months with their canines for an additional two-week narcotic course.

This contract, by its nature, is not adapted to award by competitive bidding and is, therefore, exempt from the competitive bidding process pursuant to the Municipal Code Section 2-725.